

WHIL.16 Contemporary Issues Notes

Ethnic & Religious Conflicts

Conflicts have led to migration of refugees and guest workers to European cities

- Refugees-people forced out of their country
- Guest workers-people who migrate in search of low paying jobs

I. Middle East

- Religious Conflict in Israel between Jews and Palestinians (Muslims living in Israel's territories)
 - Ex. Arab-Israeli Conflict- 700,000 Palestinian-Arabs became refugees due to the Arab-Israeli War of 1948
 - 1995: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated on November 4th

II. Northern Ireland

- Religious conflict between Protestants and Catholics

III. Balkans (Southern Europe)

- Ethnic conflicts between Bosnian Serbs, Croats, & Muslims led to violence during the 1990s

IV. Horn of Africa

- Religious conflicts between Muslims and Christians in Sudan
- Ethnic conflicts between rival tribes led to genocide in Rwanda between Hutus and Tutsis

V. South Asia

- Religious conflict between Hindus (India) and Muslims (Pakistan)
- Ethnic conflicts led to genocide in Cambodia led by Pol Pot

Developed vs. Developing Nations

- Developed Nations-industrialized & rich
U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia, Israel
- Developing Nations-not industrialized & poor
Nations in Latin America, Africa, Asia

Developing nations are filled with **F.I.L.T.H.**

- F=Famine
- I=Illiteracy
- L=Lots of poverty
- T=Tons of migration
- H=Health problems

Environmental challenges facing all nations are not something to **L.O.L.** about

- L=Lots of pollution
- O=Ongoing global climate change
- L=Loss of habitat

Major Reasons for Environmental Change

- Economic development
- Rapid population growth

<u>Indicators:</u>	<u>Definitions:</u>
• GDP	nation's production output
• % Urban	% of pop. living in cities
• % Pop. Increase	annual rate of growth
• Literacy Rate	% of pop. who read & write
• Life Expectancy	number of years a person is expected to live

<u>Indicators:</u>	<u>Developed:</u>	<u>Developing</u>
• GDP	high	low
• % Urban	high	low
• % Pop. Increase	low	high
• Literacy Rate	high	low
• Life Expectancy	high	low

Relationship between economic and political freedom

Free market economies produce

- rising standards of living
- expanding middle class

This leads to growing demands for political freedoms and individual rights.

Ex: Taiwan and South Korea.

Impact of new technologies

- Widespread but unequal access to computers and instantaneous communications
- Genetic engineering and bioethics

Economics in the Modern World

The countries of the world are

increasingly dependent on each other for raw materials, markets, and financial resources.

Economic interdependence

- Economic interdependence is when the countries of the world become increasingly dependent on each other for raw materials, markets, and financial resources.

- Role of rapid transportation, communication, and computer networks
- Rise and influence of multinational corporations
- Changing role of international boundaries

Regional Integration

- **Regional integration** is a process in which states enter into a regional agreement in order to enhance regional cooperation through regional institutions and rules, mainly economical benefits

***European Union-** an economic and political association of European countries as a unit with internal free trade and common external tariffs.

***North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)-** an agreement that came into effect in January 1994 between the US, Canada, and Mexico to remove barriers to trade between the three countries over a ten-year period.

***World Trade Organization (WTO)-** an international body founded in 1995 to promote international trade and economic development by reducing tariffs and other restrictions

International organizations -

***United Nations (UN)**

***International Monetary Fund (IMF)-** an international organization established in 1945 that aims to promote and supervise international trade and monetary cooperation and the stabilization of exchange rates

International Terrorism

All nations have situations where people are unequal, socially, culturally, or economically. Some individuals choose to deal with these unequal conditions through the use of terrorist activities.

Terrorism is the use of violence and threats to intimidate and coerce for political reasons.

***A major cause of terrorism is religious extremism.**

Terrorist Events

-Munich Summer Olympics

In 1972, at the Munich Games, a Palestinian terrorist group held 11 Israeli athletes hostage. Two died in the process and the rest were killed in an airport shoot out. Olympic games were suspended, but later resumed.

-Terrorist attacks in the United States 9/11/2001

Arab terrorists representing Al Qaeda (led by Osama Bin Laden) hijack 4 planes in the U.S.

2 crash into World Trade Center

1 crashes into the Pentagon

1 crashes in Pennsylvania after passengers fight to take it back

Other ways terrorism is carried out-

Car Bombings (ex. Oklahoma City bombing of federal building- 1996)

Suicide Bombers (often in Israel)

Airline Hijackers (often for ransom- money or prisoner exchange)

Governmental responses to terrorist activities

- Increased surveillance and limited privacy rights
- Increased security at ports and airports
- Identification badges and photos